

Baseball wins state championship

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The Tom-Tom



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EC Day at the Fair

More Photos, Page 10

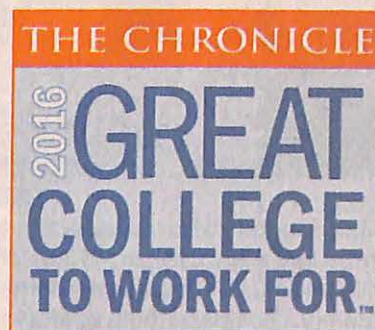
EC named a 'Great College to Work For' by Chronicle

East Central Community College was named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for in an annual survey of more than 46,000 college and university employees by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The Chronicle, a top trade publication for colleges and universities, released its annual report on The Academic Workplace, including its list of the 2016 Great Colleges to Work For. The report was also published in The Chronicle's Academic Workplace Special Issue to be released July 22.

ECCC was one of only three community colleges in Mississippi and one of only 25 two-year schools in the nation to be honored this year by The Chronicle. In all, only six two-year or four-year colleges and universities in the state received recognition.

Only 93 of the institutions that applied for the program achieved 2016 "Great College to Work For" recognition. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with East Central Community College included among the small institutions with 2,999 students or



fewer.

East Central was recognized in the categories of Collaborative Governance, for faculty

members who are appropriately involved in decisions related to academic programs; Confidence in Senior Leadership, for leaders who have the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience for institutional success; Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship, for supervisors who make expectations clear and solicit ideas; and Work/Life Balance, for policies that give employees the flexibility to manage their personal lives.

"This is a recognition we have worked hard to achieve since I arrived on campus in July 2012,"

said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart upon receiving word that East Central is a 'Great College to Work For.' "This is a well-deserved honor for our campus community and is indicative of the wonderful things that are going on at East Central Community College. It also is a testament to the commitment of our faculty, staff, and administration who desire for ECCC to be among the best places to work in the nation."

The Chronicle's Great Colleges to Work For is one of the
See CHRONICLE, PAGE 2



Welcome Back Week activities planned

Students, faculty and staff at East Central Community College will be welcomed back to campus with a fun-filled week of events, sponsored by the Student Body Association.

The week kicks off with a welcome back kick-off block party on Monday with games, a dunking booth, sno cone truck and more and ends with a glow in the dark volleyball tournament at the campus lake.

Makenzie Byrd, Student Body Association president, said "I am so excited about Welcome Back

come Back Kick-Off Block Party w/ games, dunking booth, contests, and sno cone truck. (Cross Hall Parking Lot)

9 p.m. – Manhunt Game (throughout campus)

TUESDAY, AUG. 16

"Cookout with the Coun-

See **WELCOME, PAGE 2**



Color guard preparing for season: Members of the Wall O' Sound color guard learn their new routine for the upcoming marching season. The color guard will be featured, along with the Wall O' Sound marching band and Centralettes, during halftime at Warrior football home games. Ed Girling is director of bands. Shelby Harris serves as color guard instructor.

EC PHOTO

EC gets high marks in several areas in annual report

In accordance with Mississippi House Bill No. 1071 from the 2010 legislative session, East Central Community College in Decatur has released its 2014 Community College Performance Profile, or Report Card. The bill created an Education Achievement Council which was established to set education achievement goals for institutions of higher learning and community and junior colleges in the state and to assist in monitoring progress towards those goals through the preparation of annual institutional and state report cards.

The Community College Report Card, designed to reflect the unique mission of community colleges, incorporates measures closely aligned with the Voluntary Framework of Accountability developed by the American Association of Communi-

ty Colleges. Therefore, each report card includes information for the specific community/junior college, along with corresponding figures for the state system, which includes all 15 Mississippi community/junior colleges. Information contained in the report includes student enrollment, degrees awarded, student success, student retention, student progress, workforce development information, and GED® and adult basic education statistics, as well as enrollment and success in development or remedial coursework (college readiness).

In the 2014 Community College Report Card, ECCC compared well against state averages in numerous categories. East Central achieved elite status in the area of student success, particularly excelling in the areas of Associate of Arts grad-

uation rates and preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions.

Overall student retention within for-credit programs, the number of students served in workforce training activities, the number of students experiencing increases in wages as well as the percentage increase in wages after training from East Central, and the number of GEDs awarded were other areas in which ECCC continued to be a leader in the state.

"The 2014 Report Card documents that ECCC is continuing to do many things well as we fulfill our *2020 Vision* strategic plan," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "We are very proud of that and look to strengthen those aspects of our vision and mission that

See REPORT, PAGE 4

Three East Central coaches named 'Coach of the Year'

Three East Central Community College head coaches were selected as Mississippi Association of Coaches Community College Coach of the Year out of 11 coaches selected for the 2015-16 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges sports season.

Tenth year ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman was the association's Baseball Coach of the Year for guiding his team to the MACJC State Championship.

The East Central baseball team compiled a record of 38-17 and was National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 runner up. Head Football Coach Ken Karcher



HOLLIMAN

was named Football Coach of the Year after leading the Warrior football team to its first state play-off appearance since 2001 and a C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl victory.

The East Central football team was ranked No. 10 in the final NJCAA Top 20 Football Poll for the 2015 season.

Karcher helped lead the Warriors to their best season in 16 years with an overall record of 8-3.

The HOT Bowl was East Central's first bowl game since 1996, and fourth bowl game since the Warriors began playing football in 1928.

Head Women's Basketball Coach Crandal Porter was named Wom-



KARCHER

en's Basketball Coach of the Year after leading the Lady Warriors to the MACJC State Championship.

In his fourth year at ECCC, Porter helped lead his Lady Warriors to a 19-game winning streak.

Porter's Lady Warriors completed the season with both the MACJC South Division title and MACJC State Championship, finishing 24-3 overall and 15-1 in the conference.

Both Holliman and Porter were also named MACJC Coaches of the Year for their 2015-16 season success.

The coaches were honored at the MAC Coaches of the Year banquet June 24 at the Hilton in Jackson.



PORTER

week. We will have a block party, a picnic with the executive council, 'Clubs Unite' with an ice cream bar, 'Movie Night' with a popcorn bar, and a night volleyball tournament. The Student Body Association invites each student to attend."

Byrd said Welcome Back Week allows students to overcome fears and nervousness of the first week of college.

"The students will benefit by making connections right off the bat with faculty and other students".

The following events are planned for Welcome Back Week:

SUNDAY, AUG. 14

Dorms Open @ ECCC

6 p.m. – Female Dorm Meeting – Huff Auditorium

7 p.m. – Male Dorm Meeting – Huff Auditorium

MONDAY, AUG. 15

ECCC Classes Start

7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Wel-



CARSON

Carson receives state financial aid award

Brenda Carson, director of financial aid for East Central Community College, recently received the Jack Woodward Award of Excellence from the Mississippi Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators at the organization's annual conference held at the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw.

The Woodward Award of Excellence is the highest honor presented annually by the MASA. See CARSON, PAGE 4

ECCC invites public to 'Meet the Warriors'

The public is invited to "Meet the Warriors" when East Central Community College hosts the annual pep rally and player introductions event scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 29, at Bailey Stadium on the Decatur campus.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart will welcome the anticipated large crowd for the event and provide comments about the upcoming athletics seasons.

Performing groups include the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, Centralettes and the Warrior cheerleading squad.

Members of ECCC's men's golf, men's and women's soccer, and football teams will be introduced by their coaches at the event.

The men's and women's soccer teams begin fall

action at 3 and 5 p.m., respectively, on Thursday, Aug. 25, against Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Decatur.

The 2016 Warrior football team begins its fall season at Bailey Stadium on the ECCC campus at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1, against Holmes Community College. The public is invited to attend. Admission is \$7.

The men's golf team begins play Sept. 16-17 at a Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges event at Wolf Hollow in Wesson.

Following the Pep Rally, the student-athletes will sign autograph posters for their fans.

For more information about "Meet the Warriors," contact Chris Harris, dean of personnel services and athletics, at 601-635-6401 or email charris@eccc.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda who received top honors at the organization's 2016 National Leadership Conference included (front row, from left) Alely Cruz of Philadelphia and Jennifer Watkins of Decatur; (second row, from left) Madelon Taylor of Louisville and Paxton Holmes of Morton; (third row, from left) Kimberly Watkins of Philadelphia and Anna Claire Housely and Memry Thompson, both of Morton; and (back row, from left) Cody Stephens, Caleb Brown and Ben Pace, all of Philadelphia, Morgan Jones of Pontotoc, Morgan Cain of Carthage, Enoc Reynoso of Carthage and Khalil Triplett of Philadelphia.

PBL students take top honors in national competition

Members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda received top honors at the organization's 2016 National Leadership Conference held June 24-27 in Atlanta. More than 1,700 students from across the United States participated in the conference to enhance their business skills, expand their networks, and participate in 60 business and business-related competitive events.

Theta Chi chapter received a first place award and \$700 cash prize in

the Local Chapter Annual Business Report category, was awarded sixth place in membership for PBL Big Ten Chapters, and received the Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit.

Group winners included Morgan Jones of Pontotoc and Kimberly Watkins of Philadelphia, third place, small business marketing; Ben Pace, Cody Stevens and Caleb Brown, all of Philadelphia, Madelon Taylor of Louisville and Anna Claire Housely of Morton, fourth place, parliamen-

tary procedures; Memry Thompson and Paxton Holmes, both of Morton, and Jennifer Watkins of Decatur, sixth place, integrated marketing campaign; and Khalil Triplett and Alely Cruz, both of Philadelphia, and Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, 14th place, community service project.

Individual winners included Paxton Holmes, seventh place, administrative technology; Madelon Taylor, eighth place, business communication; and Morgan Cain of Carthage, 10th place, business presentation.

Welcome back students

Welcome back! We are so excited to have all of our students back on campus for what I know will be an outstanding year at East Central Community College (ECCC). If you are a new ECCC student, then we are especially proud to have you as part of our family.

Over the summer, we had a chance to look back on the previous year at ECCC, and it was one of the most outstanding in the 88-year history of our institution.

We graduated 597 students following the 2015-16 academic year, the largest class in the history of ECCC. Nine of our 10 varsity sports teams competed in postseason play, six were nationally ranked, and two won state championships. The college began a pilot of a four-day class schedule in spring 2016, the campus became tobacco free on January 1, 2016, and our Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was named one of the Top 25 chapters in the nation.

ECCC was again named a Military Friendly School for the fourth straight year, the inaugural WarriorFest brought hundreds of people to campus for family fun, and our Wall O' Sound Band marched in Gov. Phil Bryant's inaugural parade. A new women's dormitory is under construction to help alleviate a waiting list of female students who wish to reside on campus, two male dormitories were renovated, construction on new tennis courts is expected to begin soon, and planning is underway for a new band hall.

In the area of communications, new websites for the college and the varsity sports teams will be launched in fall 2016, the college's first mobile app is now available for Apple and Android devices, and ECCC has begun providing live streaming over the internet of selected events.

In addition, several of our students, faculty, and staff were honored throughout the year for their ingenuity, skills, leadership and other talents.

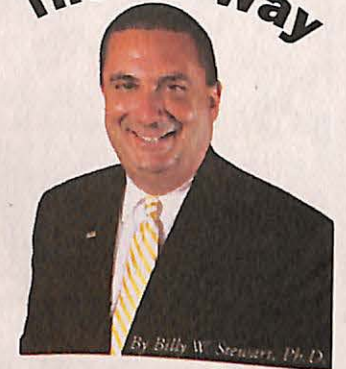
And these are just a few of the many accomplishments at East Central in the past year.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Tom-Tom*. I especially urge you to read the top story on page one about our college being named a "Great College to Work For" by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. This is quite an accomplishment as only 25 community colleges in the entire nation are on this list. Also be sure to read about the many semester-opening activities planned just for you. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to make new friends as we begin a new academic year.

On behalf of our entire college family, welcome back to ECCC. Together let's make this year even better than the last!

Dr. Billy Stewart
President

The EC Way



By Billy W. Stewart, Ph.D.

STRIKE A POSE



Chronicle From Page 1

largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. Now in its ninth year, it recognizes the colleges that get top ratings from their employees on workforce practices and policies.

whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

"It's especially humbling that East Central Community College is a 'Great College to Work For' based solely on confidential input from our faculty, staff, and administrators," noted Stewart.

"Nine years in, *The Chronicle's Great Colleges*

FROM THE DESK OF DR. LEE



HAILEY CLARK

Sophomore - Carthage - Pre-Nursing

Why did you choose to attend EC?

It is not far from home. It's nice to be able to go home whenever, especially when I end up forgetting something.

What is your favorite thing about EC?

Always seeing someone that I know when I'm walking to class or anywhere on campus.

What is your favorite meal in the Cafeteria?

Of course, my favorite in the cafeteria is just like everyone else's....fried chicken.

Who is your favorite faculty/staff member? Why?

Not that I have just one favorite staff member, but I do want to give a huge thank you to all the wonderful ladies I work with in financial aid. Without their patience and me asking a million questions, I don't know if I would have ever learned all the things I needed to know.

What is the worst thing about college life?

Everyone expecting you to adult all the time.

What is your most embarrassing moment at EC?

It has to have been freshman initiation for Centralettes. The sophomores dressed us up as Oompa Loompas so the freshmen were running around campus last year painted orange with green hair. Not to mention the song they made us sing when they blew a whistle.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

Centralettes, Phi Theta Kappa, Wo-He-Lo, and Warrior Corp.

What is your best memory at EC?

Although I have made many great memories at EC, I would say my best one this far was made this past summer. Band camp is always the first time that the Centralettes have to really get to know each other and to bond.

What are your plans after EC?

My hopes are to be accepted into a bachelor of nursing program by the time I finish at East Central. Then we'll see where God leads me from there.

The Chronicle worked with ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous "Best Places to Work" programs.

The survey rates institutions on 12 categories in the fields of leadership, careers, the workplace, and compensation.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff at participating colleges and universities. The primary factor in deciding

well known as a mark of a college or university that puts thought and effort into serving the needs of its faculty and staff," said Liz McMullen, editor of The Chronicle. "The colleges and universities that make the list are highly rated by their employees for creating great work environments, an important achievement that helps them recruit top academic and administrative talent."

For more information and to view all the results of the survey, visit The Chronicle's Web site <http://chronicle.com/interactives/greatcolleges16>.

Welcome to East Central

Welcome to East Central Community College. We are excited that you are here and look forward to a great year!

Enjoy your time here but keep in mind that you are here for an education first. The number one reason for failure in college is missing class so please do not miss a class. Don't miss class and you should pass! Cramming the night before a test will not work in college so study in advance.

Student Services personnel are here to assist you. Our mission is to assist you in attaining your goals. You are the reason we are here so let us know how we can help you. We cannot read minds so talk to us so that we can steer you in the right direction.

Other offices in the Smith Student Union to utilize are the Activity Center - available from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and until noon on Fridays. It has areas to relax and play games and a fitness center that will soon be completely revamped with almost all new equipment.

Please take advantage of the various activities and join a club or two as we have more than 35 different student organizations. If you have suggestions about improving campus life see the Director of Housing & Student Activities, Dr. Amanda Walton (e-mail awalton@eccc.edu/635-6213).

If you need anything at all you can reach me at 635-6375 or e-mail ree@eccc.edu. The Student Services' offices are located in the Eddie M. Smith Student Union. We are here because of you so do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a fantastic year and set a goal to graduate!

Sincerely,
Randall E. Lee, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Services



LEE

A NOTE FROM THE SBA PREZ

As an incoming freshman or even a new student on the campus of East Central Community College, you may not know what to expect during the first week of school. College is most likely a whole new experience for each one of you.

You will have many questions during your first year of college. What do I wear to class? How do I get involved in activities and clubs on campus? Do I have to take a laptop to class?

Your questions may vary, but these are a few of the things that I wondered about as an incoming freshman. Additionally, your questions will be answered quickly as you arrive on our student friendly campus.

As president of the Student Body Association, I would personally like to welcome you to East Central. We have numerous events planned for this school year. From campus wide movie nights and "Cram Jams" during Finals Week to a concert with the popular rock-n-roll band U.S., we invite you to each event that we have planned for this school year.

My suggestion to you is that you try be involved in as much as you can whether that be the Art Club, the Student Body Association, Warrior Corps, intramural sports, or even academic clubs. These are truly the best days of your life, and you should enjoy them to the best of your ability.

Again, I would like to welcome you to the best community college in the state of Mississippi, East Central Community College.

Makenzie Byrd, SBA President



BYRD

EC graduate Knowles selected for MS INBRE Scholars program

Alana Knowles of Decatur, a May 2016 graduate of East Central Community College, was selected for the Mississippi INBRE Scholars program, an 11-week long summer internship which allows students to explore their chosen field of study outside of a classroom setting.

The program, directed by Dr. Mohamed Elasri,

a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, seeks to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as impact the health of citizens of Mississippi.

For more information about Mississippi INBRE, visit the website at msinbre.org.

Welcome

From Page 1

cil"- 5-6:30 p.m. - Pavilion

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 17

Clubs Unite in Brackeen Wood Gym and Ice Cream Social sponsored by PTK for ECn2.

THURSDAY, AUG. 18
Glow in the Dark Volley-

ball Tournament - Campus Lake begins at 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 22
Glow in the Dark Volleyball Tournament - Campus Lake begins at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 23
Movie Night in Vickers Auditorium sponsored by SBA "Miracles from Heaven" with Popcorn Bar-6 p.m.

EC graduates record class for second straight year

For the second straight year, East Central Community College has graduated its largest class of students in the institution's 88-year history.

ECCC awarded degrees or certificates to 597 students after the 2015-16 academic year in May 2016, the largest one-year total since the college was founded in 1928. It was a 5.1 percent increase over the previous academic year, which at the time was the largest graduating class in East Central history.

"We continue to see extremely positive results from initiatives implemented as part of the college's *2020 Vision* strategic plan," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "In just two years, East Central Community College has helped almost 1,200 students complete their degrees or certificates prepared to continue their education at four-year colleges and universities, enter the workforce to begin meaningful careers, or return to their current workplaces better prepared to perform their jobs."

The record graduating class included a 33 percent increase in students receiving technical or career certificates over the

previous year, a direct result of a reformatting in fall 2014 of exit points for students in these programs.

The number of hours needed for completion in the Associate of Applied Science technical degree and the technical and career certificate programs was converted to allow exit points for students at 30 hours, 45 hours, and 60 hours. While the college's Associate of Applied Science and career programs are 60-hour programs, beginning in fall 2014 students were allowed exit points at 30-45-60 hours if for some reason they needed to exit their program.

"At 30 or 45 hours, a student receives certification that, in most cases, will begin improving their work career and life until they can come back and finish the full program at a later date," noted Stewart.

East Central awarded 568 degrees and certificates in May 2015, which topped the previous record class of 505 students in 2006-07. The then-record 2014-15 class was a 62 percent increase over the 2013-14 academic year in the number of students earning the two-year pre-bacca-

laureate Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree, and an overall 36 percent one-year increase in students completing all programs, including pre-baccalaureate degrees, technical degrees, and technical/career certificates.

Adopted in February 2013, ECCC's *2020 Vision* strategic plan includes five institutional commitments—Student Success, Teaching and Learning, Community Partnerships, Resource Planning and Development, and Communication—which serve as core functions for the college to shape its vision and fulfill its mission. Among the initiatives implemented to improve student success, particularly in the area of program completion, were:

- Waiving the \$40 graduation fee as an incentive for more students to apply for graduation and officially complete programs of study.

- Reducing the number of hours needed for a two-year associate degree from 62 to 60 to align with the 120 hours needed for a baccalaureate degree.

- Increasing the number of hours needed for a full-time course load from 12 to 15 hours so that students successfully

completing a full load of 15 hours over four semesters have an opportunity to graduate in two years.

- Reducing late registration from five class days to two days so that students who register late only miss one day of classes at the beginning of each semester.

- Requiring all full-time faculty members to devote one hour per week tutoring students in the Success Center.

"It's important that we continually seek improvements in our educational programs and learning environments that help our students successfully complete their programs of study," said Stewart. "The success of our students is our top priority, and these initiatives in fulfillment of the Student Success and Teaching and Learning institutional commitments of our *2020 Vision* ensure these students achieve their full potential in pursuit of their career and life goals.

"However, record graduating classes are not our goal at East Central Community College. That is simply a by-product of the most important goal—the success of our students."

East Central graduates Derrick, Pace selected for rural dentists program

Evan Derrick of Morton and Ben Pace of Philadelphia, 2016 East Central Community College graduates, were recently selected to participate in the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program (MRDSP).

Derrick is the son of Dwayne and Jessica Derrick of Morton. Pace is the son of Derek and Patty Pace of Philadelphia.

Created in 2013 by the Mississippi Legislature, MRDSP identifies up to five college sophomores and juniors who demonstrate the necessary commitment and academic achievement to become competent, well-trained rural pediatric or general dentists in Mississippi. The program offers two years of undergraduate academic enrichment including DAT (Dental Admission Test) preparation and clinical experience in a rural setting. Upon completion of all dental admissions requirements, the student can be admitted to the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry.

During dental school, each MRDSP scholar may receive \$35,000 per year based on available funding. The program will award 10 new scholarships in 2016-2017.



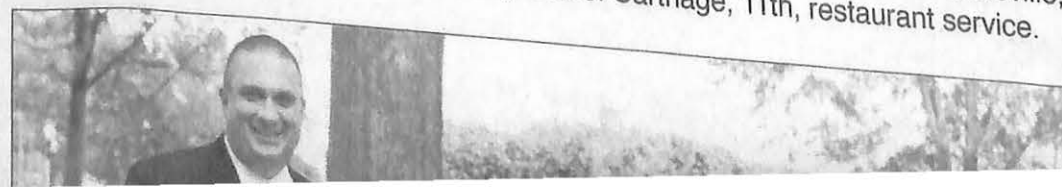
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Evan Derrick of Morton and Ben Pace of Philadelphia, 2016 East Central Community College graduates



SUBMITTED PHOTO

SKILLSUSA WINS NATIONAL HONORS: East Central Community College students placed in five areas of competition during the 52nd annual SkillsUSA Leadership Conference held recently in Louisville, Ky. Pictured are (from left) Alan Graham of Forest, seventh, industrial motor controls; Jason Forrest of Decatur, 14th, technical drafting; Ryan Hill of Forest, 21st, heating, ventilation and air conditioning; Jordan Prisock of Louisville, 27th, automotive refinishing; and Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, 11th, restaurant service.



grow to 12 scholarship totaling \$420,000 by 2017. Additional benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural dentists and academic support.

After completing dental school, MRD-SP scholars must practice general or pediatric dentistry in a rural or medically underserved community. The MRDSP scholar must provide dental services as determined by the MRDSP in a full-time clinical practice in an approved Mississippi community of 10,000 or fewer population located more than 20 miles from a medically served area.

MRDSP provides a means for rural Mississippi students to receive DAT preparation, benefit from mentoring, learn the art of oral healthcare from practicing rural dentists, and earn a \$140,000 dental school scholarship in return for four years of service.

For more information, contact the MRDSP Associate Director at 601-815-0654, jdcoleman@umc.edu or <http://www.umc.edu/mrdsp>.



EC PHOTO

FIRST LADY KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT ADN PINNING CEREMONY: Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant (center) was the keynote speaker for East Central Community College's annual Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony held Tuesday, May 3, 2016, in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Approximately 50 students received their pins. She is shown with (from left) College President Dr. Billy Stewart, ADN Student of the Year Kelsey Porter of Morton, Association of Student Nurses at EC Co-President Jamie Mathis of Morton and Dean of Healthcare Education Denita Thomas.

Former ECCC students selected for prestigious rural physician scholarships

East Central Community College graduates Louise Berryhill of Union and Taylor Lott of Forest were recently selected to participate in the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

"We are so proud of our graduates on their selection for this prestigious scholarship program," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "It is a direct reflection on their hard work and dedication to scholarship and academic achievement. It is also a reflection of the quality instruction provided by faculty at East Central."

Berryhill is a graduate of Newton County High School and the daughter of Richard and Paula Berryhill of Union.

Lott is a graduate of Scott Central High School and the son of Tim and Allyce Lott of Harpersville.

Created in 2007, MRPSP identifies college sophomores and juniors who demonstrate the necessary commitment and academic achievement to become competent, well-trained rural primary care physicians in Mississippi.

The program offers undergraduate academic enrichment and a clinical experience in a rural setting.

Upon completion of all medical school admissions requirements, the student can be admitted to the University of Mississippi School of Medicine or William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine. During medical school at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine or College of Osteopathic Medicine at William Carey University, each MRPSP scholar is under consideration for \$30,000 per year based on available funding.

Consistent legislative support of MRPSP translates to 60 medical students receiving a total of \$1,800,000 to support their education this fall. Additional benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ECCC graduates Taylor Lott of Forest and Louise Berryhill of Union were recently selected to participate in the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

Upon completion of medical training, MRPSP Scholars must enter a residency program in one of five primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, medicine-pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology or pediatrics. The MRPSP Scholar must provide four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 20,000 or fewer population located more than 20 miles from a medically served area.

MRPSP provides a means for rural Mississippi students to earn a seat in medical school, receive MCAT preparation, earn a \$120,000 medical school scholarship in return for four years of service and learning the art of healing from practicing rural physicians.

For more information, contact MRPSP Associate Director Dan Coleman at 601-815-9022, jdcoleman@umc.edu or <http://mrpsp.umc.edu>.

Hill wins scholarship for HVACR training

East Central Community College student Ryan Hill of Forest was awarded a \$500 Clifford H. "Ted" Rees, Jr., Scholarship, in recognition of his successful participation in the recent SkillsUSA Championships in the HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) category.

The Championships, held June 22-23, 2016, in Louisville, Ky., brought together students who won local and statewide competitions before qualifying to compete on the national stage. Hill finished as a finalist at the championships.

Rees scholarships are aimed at helping students continue studying to become technicians in the HVACR and water heating industry.

"We are proud to help these qualified and dedicated students, and promote careers in the HVACR and water heating industry, to help close the employment

and skills gaps we currently face," said Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) President and CEO Stephen Yurek. "We wish them success in their programs and look forward to welcoming them into the industry."

Since the Rees Scholarship Foundation was founded in 2003, it has awarded almost \$440,000 in scholarships to more than 250 deserving students and instructors.

The Clifford H. "Ted" Rees, Jr. Scholarship Foundation was established to assist with the recruitment and competency of future HVACR and water heating technicians by awarding scholarships to qualified students enrolled in an institutionally accredited school.

Eligible students must be preparing for a career in either residential or light commercial air conditioning, heating, or water heating, or commercial refrigeration.

EC's PTK chapter named to President's List

East Central Community College's Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, was recently recognized on the organization's inaugural President's List, which recognizes the 25 chapters with the highest membership acceptance rates.

According to the Phi Theta Kappa website, "the list is based on chapters' acceptance rates in 2015.

This new annual recognition serves as a way for all chapters — big and small, urban and rural — to see how their peers are performing."

East Central's Theta Xi Chapter was ranked No. 18 with a 41% acceptance rate.

"It's important for our chapters to see how others similar to them compare in terms of membership acceptance," said Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner.

"We're eager to see how these chapters are getting these high acceptance rates and to share that information with everyone in the Society. There is much we can learn from each other."

Director of Housing and Student Activities Dr. Amanda Walton, Mathematics Instructor Jenna Wright and Dean of Students James Miller serve as advisers.

Students Must Wear IDs at ALL TIMES.

PTK inductees recognized

Approximately 135 East Central Community College students were inducted into Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, during ceremonies held recently on the Decatur campus.

To qualify for the prestigious organization, whose mission is to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming, students must have completed at least 12 hours of coursework that may be applied to an associate degree and must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Director of Housing and Student Activities Dr. Amanda Walton, Mathematics Instructor Jenna Wright and Dean of Students James Miller serve as advisers.

Inductees from Leake County include: Tristan Johnston, Bethany Bradley, Morgan Cain, Lane Wooten, Cole Atkison, Ariel Enoch and Meagan

Perry, all of Carthage; Hannah Pope of Walnut Grove; Jaycie Malone, Brandy Quick, Charlie Wilcher and Hailey Clark, all of Edinburg; and Hayley Slay of Lena.

Inductees from Neshoba County include: Cody Stevens and Landon Bounds, Ben McDaniel, Warlchez Spencer, Khalil Triplett and Cardale Greer, all of Philadelphia.

Inductees from Newton County include: Codi Ballard, Tyler Spears, Kaitlyn Holmes, Hailey Williams, Sydney Kennedy, Mackenzie Phillips, Samuel Tero and Anna Claire Norman, all of Decatur; Lindsey Ayllon, Sarah Beth Whittle, Amanda Creekmore and Maggie Luke all of Newton; Cassie Smith and Kolt Hagen both of Union; Harleigh Embrey, Chaney Mills, Alexa Roberts and Rachel Brand all of Hickory; Shawna Bush of Lawrence; Jacob Hamm of Stratton; and Taylor Fulkerson of Conehatta.

Inductees from Scott County include: Tom McNair, Emily Dykeman, Holly Hendershot, TaNissa McNair, Hayden Neal and Trace Wade all of Forest; Kaitlyn Evans, Carrie Thompson, Saylee Yount,

Morgan Jones and Anna Claire Housley, all of Morton; Alejandra Salgado and Josh Crutcher, Makenzie Byrd, Brentley Comans, Wesley McDill, Shelby Harrison all of Sebastopol; Kaitlyn Ware, Anastasia Crout, Alexandria Crout, Lucas Bates, Tyler Sullivan and Katlyn Harris all of Lake; and Marley Maddox of Pelahatchie.

Inductees from Winston County include: Taylor Alexander, Reagan Fleming, Andi McCrimon, Samantha McCrimon, Brandon Rogers, Katie McCool, Chelsea Smith, Stephanie Smith and Cassie Pearson, all of Louisville; Madison Johnson and Karla Higinbotham both of Nanih Waiya; and Mikella Vance of Noxapater.

Inductees from Lauderdale County include: Natalia Londono and Gage Leifried both of Meridian and Kaitlyn Knuth of Collinsville.

Inductees from other counties include: Kelli Lewis and Michael Boggan, both of Raleigh; Richard Jacobson of Pascagoula; Corey Hilliard of St. Martin; Blake Bonds of Madison; Aniyah Marshall of Fulton; and Dalen Parker of Vicksburg.



DONATE FOOD TO HAPPINESS HILL: East Central Community College Practical Nursing students recently donated canned food items to Happiness Hill Home in Union as part of the group's community service project. Pictured with some of the donations are nursing students (from left) Hope Parker of Morton, Haley Taylor of Union and Ashley Devine of Lena.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Report From Page 1

rank above the state average. However, as it does each year, the Report Card has identified areas of improvement for our college. Likewise, we look forward to working with faculty, staff, and students to improve in those areas as ECCC strives to become nationally recognized and locally preferred. The overall results

of the Report Card demonstrate that ECCC is making progress in many areas that enable our students to experience an excellent postsecondary education right here at home."

The 2014 Performance Profile (Report Card) for ECCC can be found on the college's website at <http://www.eccc.edu/consumer-information>. In addition, a copy of the 2014 Performance Profile can be obtained from the Office of the President.

Carson From Page 1

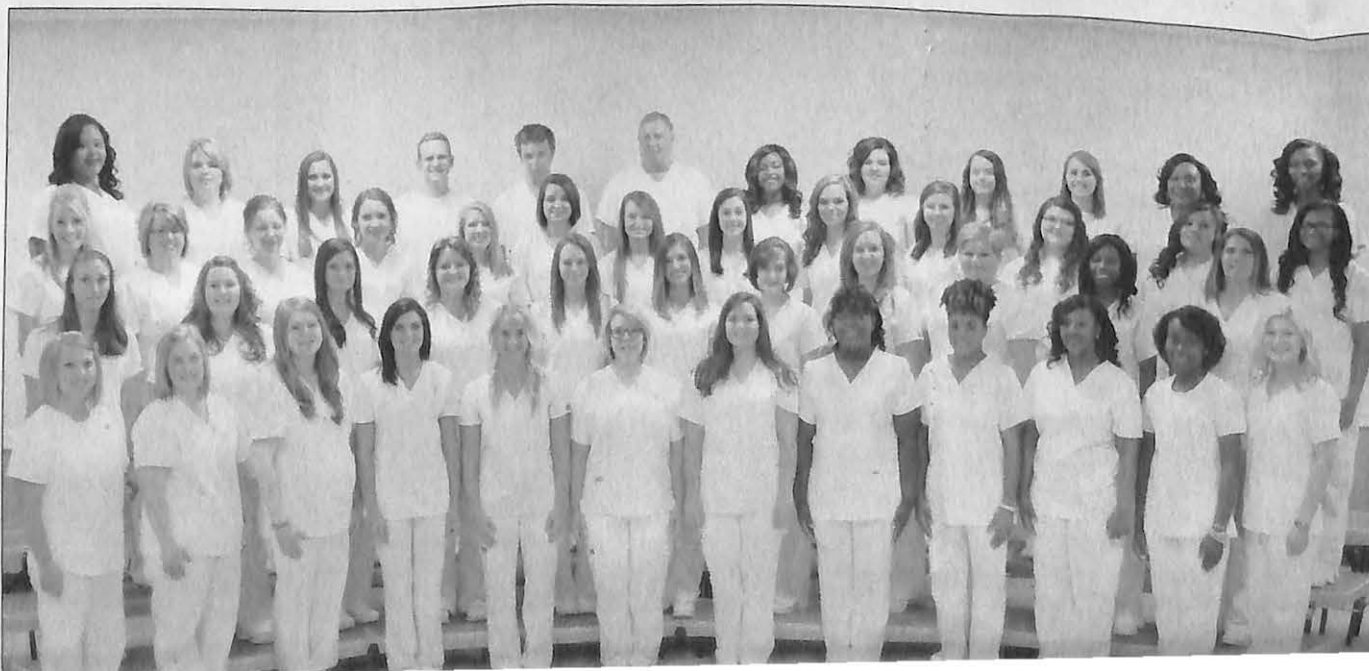
FAA. It is presented to an individual who best exemplifies leadership, knowledge, expertise, cooperation, professionalism, commitment, service and involvement in the statewide professional organization for financial aid administrators.

Carson of Decatur said she was shocked to receive the award at the president's banquet during the 49th MASFAA Annual Conference.

of the executive board of MASFAA for a three-year term, which began July 1. Carson also has served as vendor-sponsor chair, legislative committee chair and a trainer and instructor for MASFAA, among other roles.

She was president of the Mississippi Community and Junior College Student Aid Administrators Association during 2015-16.

A native of Neshoba County, Carson is a graduate of ECCC, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Delta State University, and is a member of the



son, who joined the ECCC staff in 1982 as its first financial aid director. "The recipient of the award is confidential until the awards ceremony; therefore, when I realized I was being introduced as the recipient, I was overcome with emotions. This is the highest honor I have ever received."

Carson said that knowing Jack Woodward personally made receiving the award named in his honor that much more special. "Jack Woodward was a founding member of MASFAA, and his legacy in financial aid made receiving this award mean even more to me. MASFAA has provided me opportunities personally and professionally for growth in many areas."

In addition to receiving the Woodward Award of Excellence, Carson had the additional honor of being elected as director

Gamma Society International, an organization for key women educators.

MASFAA was established in 1967 to provide a community for financial aid administrators to exchange ideas and professional expertise to effectively and ethically promote access to higher education.

MASFAA provides training opportunities for its members, allows individuals to network and create professional relationships, and enhances public awareness of student financial aid assistance.

Members of MASFAA are from colleges, universities, lending institutions, government agencies, foundations and others associated with private and community organizations concerned with the support and administration of student financial aid programs.



EC PHOTO

ECCC ADN Graduates: These East Central Community College graduates were honored Tuesday, May 3, 2016, during the college's annual Associate Degree Nursing Pinning Ceremony held in Huff Auditorium on the Decatur campus. Mississippi First Lady Deborah Bryant was the keynote speaker. Pictured are (front row, from left) Tanesha Barham, Faith Anderson and Ashley Lawrence, all of Philadelphia; Kelsey Porter of Morton, Laken Fulcher of Louisville, Jamie Mathis of Meridian, Kelsey Cox of Forest, Quanaeqa Hunt of Louisville, Krystan Bolton of Walnut Grove, Kelly Buchanan of Jackson, Maya Cole of Yazoo City and Shelby McKelvaine of Meridian; (second row, from left) Letecia Rome of Carthage, Leighanne Powell of Little Rock, Kristen Dowell of Carthage, Madison Herrington of Union, Taylor Smith of Noxapater, Christian Little, Anna Lewis and Christina Lewis, all of Philadelphia; Ashley Seals of Laurel, Jeannie Triplett of Philadelphia and Brittany Thrash of Sebastopol; (third row, from left) Sarah LaRochelle of Brandon, Heather Hayman of Pulaski, Ashley Barber of Sebastopol, Ashley Dickerson of Louisville, Jennifer Burns and Madie Pigg, both of Carthage; Lanna Parker of Philadelphia, Erin Thornton of Sebastopol, Miranda Clark of Philadelphia, Kayla Covington of Louisville, Adriana Alderson of Union, Nashima Thompson of Choctaw and Lindsy Coleman of Ellisville; and (back row, from left) Shavonda Fields of Terry, Peggy Sims of Forest, Ivey Commer of Philadelphia, Colby Amis of Decatur, Alexey Danilov and Danny Ware, both of Lake, Aaliyah Smith of Meridian, Kristen Hawks of Union, Jennifer McCraw of Philadelphia, Savannah Glover of Decatur, LaShandra Carter of Noxapater and Pilar Lyas of Taylorsville. Porter was also honored as Associate Degree Nursing Student of the Year. Denita Thomas serves as Dean of Healthcare Education.



EC PHOTO

Receive GED: Students who received their high school equivalency diplomas at the annual GED Graduation Ceremony held recently at East Central Community College in Decatur, including three who were in the MI-BEST program, were (first row, from left) Alexius Hardin of Forest, Erika Harrell of Morton, Alicia Bell and Darla Bozeman, both of Philadelphia; Saradine Celissaint of Gulfport, Hunter Comans of Carthage, Leslie Ellingburg of Lake, Matthew Garces and Francis Pittman, both of Forest; and Alicia Morehead of Lake; (second row, from left) Kristen Harris of Forest, Terria Maze of Forest, Taylor Pfeifer of Philadelphia, Sierra Ingle of Forest, Catherine Joiner of Meridian and Allison Hamilton of Union; (third row, from left) Michael Carpenter of Forest, Kory Banks of Philadelphia, Randy Comans and Nicole Parnell of Decatur; Harrison of Sebastopol, Samantha Roeder of Philadelphia, Cody Smith of Union, Bryan Rodgers of Walnut Grove, Johnny Brown and Quality Brown, both of Carthage; Megan Sanders of Forest and Allyson Peters of Philadelphia; Unique Thompson and Alexis Webb, all of Philadelphia. ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart presented diplomas during the special program held in Huff Auditorium. Dr. Rachel DeVaughan, program specialist for adult education for the Mississippi Community College Board, served as guest speaker. ECCC offers free ABE/GED/ESL classes for those 17 and older throughout the college's support district, which includes Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and Winston counties.

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of

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It is published by the Office of Public Information.

For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by Dr. Teresa Houston, Vice President for Instruction, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, thouston@eccc.edu.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 and ADA are coordinated by Dr. Randall Lee, Vice President for Student Services, Eddie M. Smith Student Union, Room 201, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327, Phone: 601-635-6375, Fax: 601-635-3247, rlee@eccc.edu.

Adviser: Amy Thompson



EAST CENTRAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Warrior Athletics

Warrior football kicks off Sept. 1

Coming off the best season in 16 years, fourth-year East Central Community College head football coach Ken Karcher anticipates another successful season for the Warriors in 2016.

East Central finished the 2015 season ranked No. 10 in the National Junior College Athletic Association Top 20 poll after winning the C.H.A.M.P.S Heart of Texas Bowl last December.

Karcher's squad will have to continue improving on both sides of the ball in order to carry last year's success into the 2016 season.

"We lost a lot of players on offense, but we have a few returners who will need to step up this season," Karcher said as fall practice opened. "Defense is usually ahead at the start, but I like what I see on offense."

Approximately 78 players reported for fall practice Aug. 7 to compete for 55 roster and 10 practice spots. The Warriors will scrimmage August 20 at Hinds Community College before beginning the 2016 season taking on Holmes Community College in Bailey Stadium in Decatur at 6:30 on Thursday, Sept. 1.

Last year the Warrior defense allowed 16.5 points per game, and Karcher feels that the defensive



EC PHOTO

The East Central Community College Warrior football team, led by head coach Ken Karcher, kicks off their season at home on Sept. 1.

front will be the strength of the team this year.

"It's too soon to tell without being in pads yet, but I think our defensive line is growing," Karcher said. "If they develop like I think, they will really impact the team."

Returning on the defensive front will be Rosheem Collins, a 6-2, 300-pound defensive tackle out of Ware County High School in Waycross, Ga.; Charles Bradford, also a 6-2, 300-pound defensive tackle out of Forest High School, and Breylon Jackson, a 6-1, 225-pound defensive end from Germantown High School in Madison.

Karcher said the secondary is pretty much newcomers, but he expects a lot from Pat Walker, a 6-foot, 210-pound linebacker who prepped at North Forrest High School. Walker was third on the team in 2015 with 52 tackles.

Offensively, Karcher hopes to see good things from his newcomers and few returners.

"I think we have a lot of exciting

guys on offense that are new this season," Karcher said.

Not new to the league, but new to the Warriors, is 6-2, 190-pound quarterback, Dominic Marino from Venice High School in Sarasota, Fla. Marino is a transfer from Cohoma Community College where he passed for over 1,200 yards last season and accounted for seven total touchdowns passing and rushing, and Karcher feels confident that he will be the starting quarterback this season.

Also new for the Warriors are freshman wide receivers Antonio Gibson of Eagles Landing High School in McDonough, Ga., and Otis Cross Jr. of Kemper County High School.

Returning on the offensive side of the ball will be Lucas Orchard, a 6-1, 295-pound offensive lineman out of Vancleave High School, who will switch to center and will be a key ingredient for the team Karcher says. Running backs Mikell Daniels

See FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

EC alum Marcus Thames inducted into sports Hall of Fame

Former East Central Community College baseball standout Marcus Thames was one of 15 individuals inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame on Tuesday, April 26, at the 10th annual induction banquet held at the Clyde Muse Center on Hinds Community College's Rankin Campus.

Thames, currently the assistant hitting coach for the New York Yankees, is the first ECCC baseball player to join the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame.

The Louisville native played baseball at East Central in 1996-1997. Thames led the 1997 team with a then school record .420 batting average, 13 home runs, and 70 RBI. He was named NJCAA All-American, All-Region 23, and MACJC All-State following the season.

Thames was then drafted by the New York Yankees.

Thames' big-league career began with a first-pitch home run off Randy Johnson of the Arizona Diamondbacks at Yankee Stadium in June 2002. He was traded to the Texas Rangers in June 2003, again hitting a home run

in his first at-bat. Thames was granted free agency and signed with the

Detroit Tigers in December 2003. The 2006 Tigers won the American League pennant but lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. Thames set career highs during the championship season batting .256 with 26 home runs and 60 RBIs in only 348 at-bats. In 2008, he became the first Tiger in team history hit eight home runs over seven consecutive games. He hit his 100th career homer in 2009.

He holds the Tigers' franchise record for average at-bats per home run at 14.8 and reached 100 home runs in 1,549 at-bats—fewer than any other player with 100 home runs.

Thames returned to the Yankees in 2010 playing in the American League Championship Series and completed his playing career in 2011 with the Los

See THAMES, PAGE 6



THAMES

EC Diamond Warriors win state championship, finish 10th in nation

Freshman shortstop and Mendenhall High School

single in the bottom of the ninth gave the No. 14 East Central Community College Diamond Warriors a 13-12 victory over No. 2 Jones County Junior College in the championship game of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Baseball Tournament May 14 on the campus of Jones County.

It was the fourth state baseball championship for East Central and Neal Holliman's third as head coach of the Diamond Warriors. East Central also won the 2013 MACJC State Tournament and finished third in 2014.

Jones County jumped out to an early two-run lead in the top of the first, but ECCC answered with four runs in the bottom of the inning.

The game went back and forth until Jones jumped out to a 12-9 lead in the top of the sixth.

The Diamond Warriors rallied to close the deficit to 12-11 going into the ninth.

Sophomore third baseman Will Kennedy of Union High School led off the ninth with a single and advanced to second on an error and to third on a passed ball. Freshman designated hitter Brandon Clark of Neshoba Central High School reached first on a fielder's choice as the Jones County pitcher elected to throw home before



EC PHOTO

The East Central Community College Diamond Warriors celebrate winning the 2016 MACJC State Baseball Championship May 14 at Jones County.

Kennedy returned safely to third base.

Sophomore left fielder Matt Mitchell of Lake High School was intentionally walked after Clark stole sec-


ond on the first pitch of the at-bat. This set up Cameron's walk-off single to right field.


See WARRIORS, PAGE 9


EAST CENTRAL WARRIORS


2016 FOOTBALL


8/20
EC @ Hinds (Scrimmage)
9:30 a.m.


 9/01
vs. Holmes
6:30 p.m.


 9/08
vs. Northeast
6:30 p.m.


 9/15
@ Pearl River
6 p.m.


 9/22
vs. MS Gulf Coast
6:30 p.m.

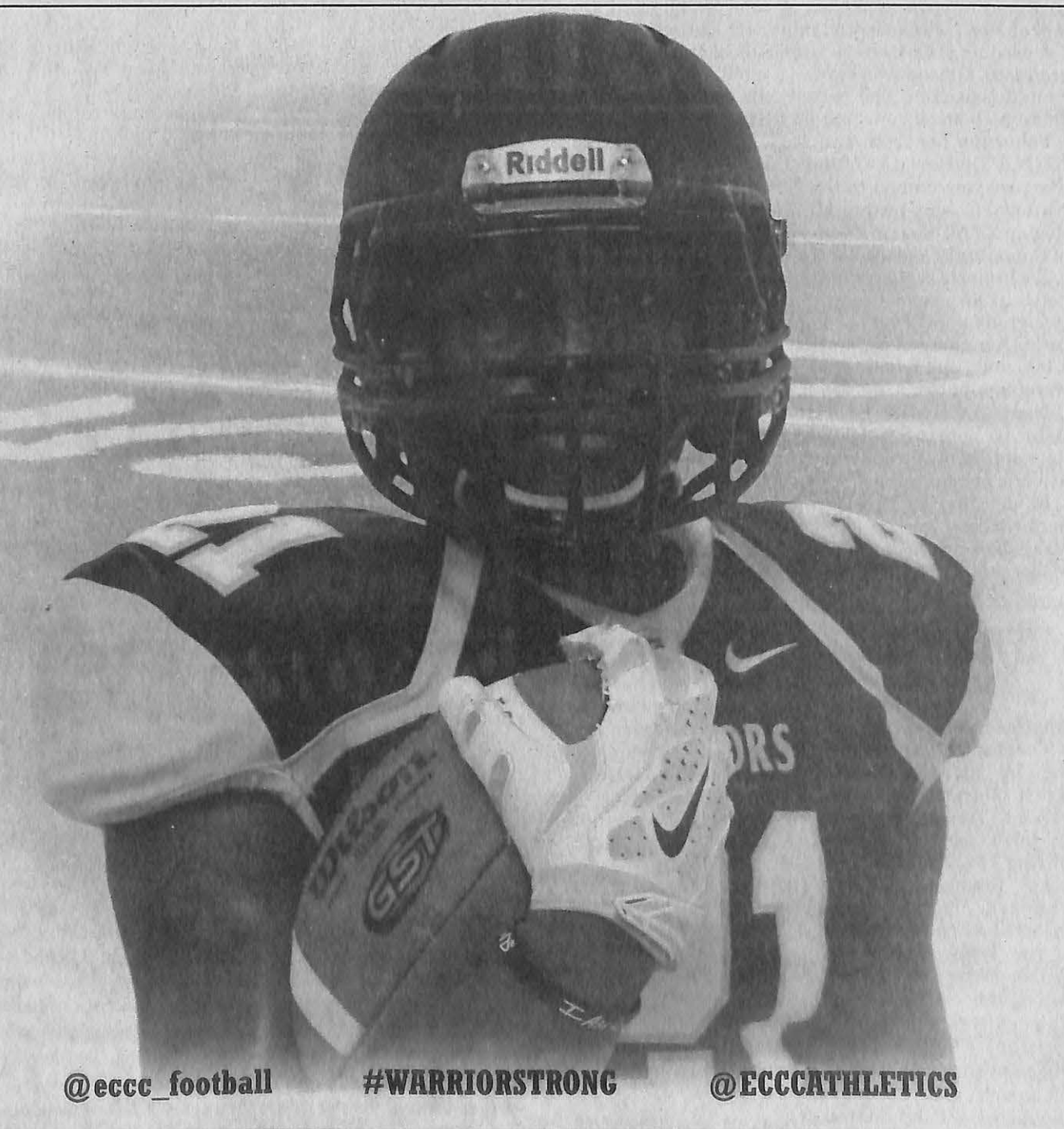
 9/29
@ Co-Lin
7 p.m.

 10/06
vs. Jones
6:30 p.m.

 10/15
vs. Hinds (HC)
2:30 p.m.

 10/20
@ Northwest
6:30 p.m.

 10/29
@ Southwest
5 p.m.



@eccc_football

#WARRIORSTRONG

@ECCCATHLETICS

EC softball season ends in Region 23 tourney

A return trip to the national softball championship tournament wasn't in the cards for No. 11 East Central Community College as the Lady Diamond Warriors were eliminated May 7 from the 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Softball Tournament played on the campus of LSU-Eunice in Eunice, La.

The tournament featured four of the top 11 teams in the most recent NJCAA Division II Softball Top 20.

The Lady Diamond Warriors didn't go down without a fight, however. After losing their first game of Region 23 play Friday, May 6, to MACJC State Champion and No. 5 ranked Jones County Junior College 3-2, East Central came back Saturday afternoon to defeat No. 3 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 7-3 in an elimination game.

The ECCC win eliminated Gulf Coast and put the Lady Diamond Warriors in another elimination game late Saturday afternoon against No. 1 LSU-Eunice, won by the Lady Bengals 8-4.

East Central finished its season with a 44-11 record. Last season, the Lady Diamond Warriors finished second in the Region 23 Tournament and advanced to the NJCAA

Division II Softball Championship in Clinton where they also finished second.

Against Jones County on Friday, May 6, East Central took a 2-0 lead in the first inning thanks to a single by Caitlyn Aldous of Petal High School, a double by Mahalia Gibson out of Oak Grove High School, and a Jones County throwing error. Jones County fought back with single runs in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings to take the 3-2 win.

Lacey Hill, a product of Kilbourne (La.) High School, took the loss giving up only four hits in six innings of work, while walking four batters.

It was the fourth meeting of the year between ECCC and in-state rival Jones County, with the Lady Diamond Warriors falling short in all four contests.

In the 7-3 win over Gulf Coast, the Lady Diamond Warriors fell behind early 3-0. East Central tied the game at 3-3 in the bottom of the second thanks to three Lady Bulldog errors in the inning. East Central grabbed the lead, and for good, in the next inning with double by Katlyn Duke out of Neshoba Central High School, a double by Summer Lavender out of Canton Academy, and a single from Purvis High School's Elizabeth

Frey, all with two outs.

East Central added an insurance run in the sixth on another Lavender double and then a run in the seventh.

It was also the fourth meeting of the year between these two teams, and the first time East Central came away with a victory.

Hill was in the circle again for the Lady Diamond Warriors, throwing seven innings and giving up five hits.

In the 8-4 elimination loss to No. 1 LSU-Eunice, East Central again fell behind early as the Lady Bengals scored three runs in the first two innings.

East Central closed the gap to 3-2 in the top of the fourth on a lead-off double by Brittney McCray out of Sumrall High School, followed by a two-run homer to left center off the bat of Duke.

The Lady Bengals added a single run in the fifth and four more in the sixth on just two hits to take an 8-2 lead into the last inning. East Central rallied with two runs in their last at bat to pull to the final 8-4.

Hill tossed her third straight game for East Central before being relieved by Chloe Thaggard out of Leake Academy in the sixth.



EC PHOTO

Thaggard signs with Belhaven University; East Central Community College sophomore pitcher Chloe Thaggard, a product of Leake Academy, signed to play for the Belhaven University Lady Blazers next fall. She was 18-2 in the circle this season for the Lady Warriors, with 74 strikeouts in 106 innings pitched.

Softball players receive post-season honors

Several members of the East Central Community College softball team received post-season honors following the squad's successful 2016 season.

At the top of the list was pitcher Lacey Hill of Kilbourne, La., who received NJCAA All-Region 23 and MACJC All-State honors.

A product of Kilbourne High School, Hill had a 1.86 ERA and struck out 144 batters. She completed the season with a 22-8 win/loss record and pitched 176.2 innings. She was also selected the Lady Warriors' Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Pitcher.

Also receiving All-Region 23 recognition were outfielder Caitlyn Aldous of Petal and second baseman Mahalia Gibson, a product of Oak Grove High School.

Aldous batted .440, had a .500 on-base percentage and had 81 hits. Her fielding percentage was .985.

Gibson batted .402 and had 72 hits, including 18 homeruns and 68 RBI.

Aldous and Gibson were co-recipients of the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player Award.

Additional Lady Warriors receiving MACJC All-State honors were outfielder Katlyn Duke of Neshoba Central High School and pitcher Lacey Hill of Leake Academy in



Men's basketball team welcomes 8 players

East Central Community College head men's basketball coach Robert Thompson announced the addition of eight new members to the Warrior basketball team for next season.

"We really picked guys with great character and that understand the concept of team work," Thompson said. "This should be an exceptional group and I can't wait to get started for next year."

The 2016 signing class includes 5-10 point guard Jaylon Chiles of Biloxi High School, who averaged eight points, seven assists, three steals and

8.5 rebounds, four assists and two blocks; 6-3 guard Cayman "CJ" Ruffin of Neshoba Central High School, who averaged 13 points, three assists, three rebounds and two steals; 6-4 guard Jaquan Dotson also of Neshoba Central High School, who averaged 14 points, four assists, nine rebounds and two steals; 6-4 forward Antonio Clark of Leake Central High School, who averaged 12 points, 7.7 rebounds, one block and 1.5 assists; 6-3 guard Jerome Adkin of Clarkdale High School, who averaged 23 points, eight rebounds and had a 49 percent field goal

Duke had a 1.000 fielding percentage and had 89 put-outs. She also batted .368 and had 56 hits. In addition, she was selected the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player and received the Hustle Award.

Ellis batted .364 and had 55 hits. She received the Base-running Award and was also selected the team's Scholar Athlete for having the highest grade point average.

Other players who received team honors included infielder Cayla Myers of Magee, Lady Warrior Award, and infielder Andi Hannaford, a product of Magonlia Heights School in Senatobia, Most Improved Player.

The Lady Warriors completed the season with a 44-11 record and advanced to the MACJC State and NJCAA Region 23 tournaments under head coach Kristin Chaney and assistant Courtney Nunn.

Mahalia Gibson recognized as Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar

East Central Community College softball standout Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg was recognized as a 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar in the April 21 edition of *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*.

A product of Oak Grove High School and a 2016 ECCC graduate, Gibson was earlier named an NJCAA All-Region 23 selection. She batted .402 and had 72 hits, including 18 home runs and 68 RBI.

Following her freshman season, she was selected an NJCAA Division II Softball First Team All-American. She also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team, NJCAA Region 23 All-Region Team, and Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges First Team All-State.

Each sports scholar must be a non-freshman who competes in an intercollegiate sport, maintains a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.20, and is active in his or her campus or in the community. Approximately 1,000 male and female students from across the country were nominated.

Issues In Higher Education established the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Awards "to honor undergraduate students of color who best exemplify academic and athletic achievement."

In addition to their athletic ability and academic performance, Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholars demonstrate a commitment to community service and student leadership."

Thames

From Page 5

Angeles Dodgers.

Thames began coaching in 2013 as hitting coach of the Class A-Advanced Tampa Yankees. In 2014, he was named hitting coach of the Yankees Double-A Trenton Thunder and advanced in 2015 to hitting coach of the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. After the 2015 season, Thames was promoted to assistant hitting coach of the New York Yankees.

Thames and his wife, Danna, have four children:

Deja, Jade, Marcus Jr., and Ella.

Thames' number "24" at East Central was retired in 2007 and he was inducted into the college's Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

Thames joins East Central's previous inductees Marcus Mann (2015), Evelyn "Snoopy" Bender (2014), Samuel "Sammy" Pace (2013), Richard Harris (2012), Dr. Clyde Muse (2011), Van Chancellor (2010), Joe Clark (2009), Earl Marshall and Lamar Blount (2008), and Walter Arno Vincent, Lucille Wood, and Denver Brackeen (2007).

EC PHOTO
Ellis signs with Nicholls State University: Former East Central Community College shortstop Maegen Ellis, a product of Oak Hill Academy, signed with Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. to continue her softball in the fall. Ellis finished the Lady Warrior season batting .364 with 55 hits and 42 RBI.

ECCC baseball announces end of season team awards

Several East Central Community College baseball players received team postseason honors following the successful 2016 season.

Pitcher Channing Wall of Louisville High School was named Co-Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Pitcher for the 2016 Diamond Warriors.

Also named the team's Co-Most Valuable Player was freshman first baseman Cole Prestegard of Huntsville (Ala.) High School.

Sophomore left fielder Matt Mitchell of Lake High School received the Best Teammate Award

and Scholar Athlete Award.

Selected as Most Improved Player was freshman pitcher Luke Yancey of East Rankin Academy.

Sophomore shortstop Dylan Snypes of Wayne County High School was named Most Valuable Defensive Player.

Sophomore catcher Michael Davis of Clinton High School was named as Most Competitive.

East Central finished the season with a 38-17 record and a Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges' State Championship.



EC PHOTO
Phillips signs to play basketball for Radford University: Randy Phillips, a 6-9 center on the East Central Community College Warrior men's basketball team, signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball in the fall at Radford University, a NCAA Division I program located in Radford, Va. Phillips is shown with his mother Angelica Phillips. Phillips, a product of Lanier High School, averaged 8.4 points and 6.4 rebounds per game during the 2015-16 season.

MS All-Star selection; 6-7 guard Thurston McCarty of Quitman High School, who averaged 16.5 points, 12 rebounds and 5.5 blocks; 6-6 forward Joshua Beard also of Quitman High School, who averaged 12 points,

ter marshun Graaney of Northwest Rankin High School, who averaged 9.4 points and seven rebounds.

The Warriors ended the 2015-16 season 13-10 overall and 8-6 in the South Division.



EC PHOTO
ECCC's Duncan signs to play basketball at Southern University: East Central women's basketball standout Samantha Duncan, a product of Oak Grove High School, signed to play for Southern University located in Baton Rouge, La. Duncan averaged 15.9 points per game. She also had 3.6 assists and 4.2 rebounds per game. The Hattiesburg native was named to the First Team All-State, All-Region 23 Tournament, and NJCAA All-Region 23 teams.

EC's Channing Wall named to NJCAA All-American first team

East Central Community College baseball player Channing Wall of Louisville High School was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II All-American First Team by the division's baseball committee.

A sophomore right-handed pitcher, Wall led the team with 65 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.53. He recorded 13 saves on the year, with a 7-5 win/loss

record in 59 innings. Wall was also selected to the 2016 NJCAA All-Region 23 team and Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State team.

He has signed to continue his career with the University of North Alabama Lions in Florence, Ala.

East Central compiled a record of 38-17 this season, and was the MACJC State Champion and NJCAA Region 23 runner up.

The Tom-Tom

Student-athletes recognized for academic performance

Several East Central Community College student-athletes received state and national recognition for academic performance during the 2015-16 academic year on the Decatur campus.

In all, 65 ECCC student-athletes were recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, or both organizations.

The NJCAA presents awards in three categories: NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (for those achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point average); NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.79 to 3.99 GPA); and NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.6 to 3.78 GPA).

Receiving the NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence were Blake Morton (baseball) of Madison, Carrissa Stevenson (women's soccer) of Gulfport, Durham Norman (men's soccer) of Florence, Gage Leifried (men's soccer) of Meridian, Kellen Clark (men's soccer) of Collinsville, (women's soccer) of Collinsville, Pashien Kelley-Johnson (women's soccer) of Diamondhead, Samantha McCrimon (women's tennis) of Louisville, Samuel Thompson (men's soccer) of De-

catur, and Nathan Roseberry (baseball) of Purvis.

Receiving the NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement were Baylee Green (softball) of Sebastopol, Brandon Clark (baseball) of Union, Brantlie Sheets (softball) of Louisville, Brittany Rasco (women's soccer) of Pascagoula, Brooke Payne (women's tennis) of Union, Chaney Mills (women's tennis) of Hickory, Cole Prestegard (baseball) of Hampton Grove, Ala., Maggie Luke (women's soccer) of Decatur, Elizabeth Frey (softball) of Purvis, Kaley Bufkin (women's tennis) of Decatur, Katlyn Duke (softball) of Philadelphia, Lucas Orchard (football) of Vancleave, Maegen Ellis (softball) of West Point, Megan Parrish (women's soccer) of Pascagoula, and Tyler Ladner (baseball) of Pass Christian.

Receiving the NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement were Allie Turner (women's soccer) of Horn Lake, Andi McCrimon (women's tennis) of Louisville, Cole Duty (men's tennis) of Louisville, Blake Paben (baseball) of Madison, Brandon Rodgers (men's tennis) of Louisville, Caitlyn Aldous (softball) of Petal, Chloe Thaggard (softball) of Philadelphia, Emily Dykeman (women's tennis) of Forest, Gabrielle

Gross (women's soccer) of Nesbit, Gabrielle Stapp (women's soccer) of Saucier, Jacob Huff (baseball) of Brandon, Kayla Young (women's soccer) of Olive Branch, Kenzie Jenkins (women's soccer) of Florence, Lacey Field (women's soccer) of Olive Branch, Lacey Hill (softball) of Kilbourne, La., Matt Mitchell (baseball) of Lake, Devin Skinner (men's tennis) of Philadelphia, Nicholas Thomas (men's soccer) of Southaven, Peyton Cain (baseball) of Hickory, Taylor Creighton (baseball) of Quitman, Richard Jacobson (men's soccer) of Pascagoula, and Zachary Claycomb (football) of Flowood.

The academic honors presented to student-athletes on the state level include MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State (those earning a 3.8 to 4.0 GPA) and MACJC Academic All-State (3.25 to 3.79 GPA).

ECCC student-athletes receiving MACJC Distinguished Academic All-State were Kaley Bufkin, Kellen Clark, Katlyn Duke, Maegen Ellis, Pashien Kelley-Johnson, Durham Norman, Megan Parrish, Brooke Payne, Brittany Rasco, and Carrissa Stevenson.

Those receiving MACJC Academic All-State were Caitlyn Aldous, Kayla Anderson (women's

soccer) of Florence, Christian Bellew (baseball) of Gulfport, Peyton Cain, Taylor Creighton, Michael Davis (baseball) of Clinton, Cole Duty, Lacey Field, Mahalia Gibson (softball) of Hattiesburg, Erin Golden (women's soccer) of Petal, Zack Hammons (golf) of Raleigh, Andi Hannaford (softball) of Senatobia, Lacey Hill, Jesse Hosket (football) of French Camp, Eddie Houston (football) of Newton, Johnta' Hughes (women's basketball) of Hattiesburg, Jacob

Huff, Will Kennedy (baseball) of Union, Summer Lavender (softball) of Canton, Matt Mitchell, Cayla Myers (softball) of Magee, Nathan Nance (golf) of Decatur, Jelisa Pearson (women's basketball) of Quitman, Devin Skinner, Dylan Snypes (baseball) of State Line, Gabrielle Stapp, Chloe Thaggard, Allie Turner, Channing Wall (baseball) of Louisville, and Megan Yarbrough (women's soccer) of Olive Branch.

EC teams receive NJCAA academic honors

Seven East Central Community College varsity sports teams earned National Junior College Athletic Association Academic Team of the Year honorable mention awards for having met the grade-point average requirement of 3.00 or better for the 2015-16 season.

The ECCC Diamond Warrior baseball team finished with a 3.43 GPA and ranked sixth overall.

The women's basketball team also earned an honorable mention award, finishing with a 3.0 GPA.

Men's soccer ranked 15th overall and finished with a 3.0 GPA as well. Women's soccer tied for

fourth overall, finishing with a 3.45 GPA.

The Lady Diamond Warrior softball team finished with a 3.56 GPA, the second highest GPA of East Central's teams, and tied for ninth among all NJCAA Division II softball teams.

The ECCC men's tennis team tied for 12th overall and finished with a 3.20 GPA, while the women's tennis team led all ECCC teams with a 3.67 GPA and ranked fourth overall among women's tennis teams.

There were 714 NJCAA teams that finished with a GPA of 3.0 or better out of a total of 3,394 teams in all sports across all divisions.

ECCC baseball players receive postseason honors

Several East Central Community College Diamond Warriors were selected to the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23 Baseball Team and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State Baseball Team after the 2016 season.

East Central compiled a record of 38-17, and was the MACJC State Champion and NJCAA Region 23 runner up.

Sophomores Channing Wall of Louisville High

School and Matt Mitchell of Lake High School were named to the 2016 MACJC All-State Team, along with freshmen Brandon Clark of Neshoba Central High School and Cole Prestegard of Huntsville (Ala.) High School.

A right-handed pitcher, Wall led the team with 65 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.53. He recorded 13 saves on the year, with a 7-5 win/loss record in 59 innings. Wall was also selected to the 2016 NJCAA All-Region 23 team. Prestegard, a first baseman, also was se-

lected for both the All-Region and All-State teams. He led East Central in batting average, hits, doubles, home runs and RBI for the 2016 season.

Prestegard had 66 hits, including 14 doubles and nine home runs, and 45 RBI while batting .375. Clark, a third baseman and designated hitter, hit .345 with eight doubles, two triples, two homers and 30 RBI.

Mitchell, a left fielder, drove in 31 runs on 58 hits, including 11 doubles, five triples and three homers. He hit .384 on the season.

Sophomore second baseman Dylan Snypes of Wayne County High School hit .290 and was tied for second on the team in hits, including 13 doubles and five homers. He had 38 RBI.

Freshman center fielder Nathan Roseberry of Purvis High School hit .384, with two doubles, three home runs, and 26 RBI.

Freshman shortstop Billy Cameron of Mendenhall High School batted .353, with six doubles, two triples, two homers, and 33 RBI.





EC PHOTO

McDonald signs with Dillard University: Former East Central women's basketball guard Alexia McDonald, a product of Petal High School, signed with Dillard University in New Orleans, La. to continue her academic and basketball career. McDonald averaged team-highs of 16.2 points and 2.7 steals per game. She also had 7.8 rebounds per game for the 2015-16 season.



EC PHOTO

Dandridge signs with Florida A&M University: Derrick Dandridge, a 6-8 forward on the East Central Community College Warrior men's basketball team, signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball this fall at Florida A&M University, an NCAA Division I program located in Tallahassee, Fla. Dandridge, a product of White Station (Tenn.) High School, averaged 8.7 points and 7.5 rebounds per game during the 2015-16 season.

State Second Team. Sophomore right-hander Peyton Cain of Newton County High School started 13 games on the mound and compiled a 10-1 record, including two complete games. He struck out 42 batters.

6-3 on the mound in 13 appearances and struck out 52 batters. The Diamond Warriors are under the direction of Head Coach Neal Holliman and assistant coaches Jake Rowell and Tyler Buckley.

EC's Lockett signs with UNA: T.J. Lockett, East Central Diamond Warrior outfielder, signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball at the University of North Alabama located in Florence, Ala. Lockett, a Bibb County (Ala.) High School product, batted .319 with six doubles and 26 RBIs in 47 games during 2016 season.

EC PHOTO

EAST CENTRAL WARRIORS



2016 SOCCER

8/17
vs MS Gulf Coast (Exhibition)
3/5 p.m.

8/22
@ Belhaven (Exhibition)
(Women's Only) 5 p.m.

8/25
vs. Co-Lin
3/5 p.m.

8/26
@ Southwest
2/4 p.m.

8/31
@ Meridian
5/7 p.m.

9/02
vs. Itawamba
2/4 p.m.

9/07
@ Northwest
1/3 p.m.

9/14
vs. Holmes
2/4 p.m.

9/17
@ Hinds
5/7 p.m.

9/21
vs. Southwest
5/7 p.m.

9/23
vs. Pearl River
5/7 p.m.

9/24
@ Co-Lin
(Men's Only) 1 p.m.

9/28
vs Meridian
5/7 p.m.

9/30
@ Jones
5/7 p.m.

10/01
vs. Jacksonville (Texas)
(Women's Only) Noon

10/05
@ Itawamba
2/4 p.m.

10/07
@ Northwest
1/3 p.m.

10/14
@ Holmes
1/3 p.m.

10/19
vs Hinds
2/4 p.m.

@ECCCSoccer

#WARRIORSTRONG

@ECCCATHLETICS

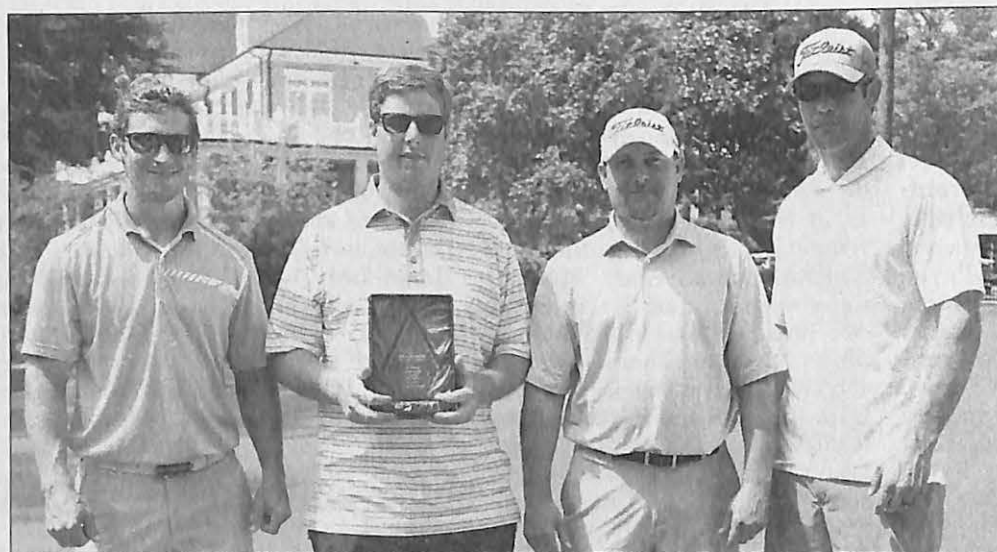
Wheeler Drug Store wins Golf Classic

Golfers representing Wheeler Drug Store in Decatur claimed top honors in the championship flight of the 15th annual East Central Community College Warrior Golf Classic held May 12 at the Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, located on the Pearl River Resort in Choctaw.

Sponsored by the ECCC Alumni Association, the four-person scramble netted \$10,132 for student scholarships, according to event coordinator David LeBlanc, director of alumni relations and the foundation at ECCC in Decatur. "Thanks to all the sponsors, teams, and volunteers who made the 15th Annual Warrior Golf Classic an incredible success," said LeBlanc. "With a record setting number of team sponsors this year, the tournament continues to grow and provide much-needed financial assistance to deserving students at East Central Community College."

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

The Wheeler Drug Store team posted a 22-under par 50 in the 18-hole event, held on the Azaleas Course. Team members included Hal Thompson, John Rohrer, Scott Hinnant and Joey Hayes. Finishing second with a 53 was the Commu-



Warrior Golf Classic Champs: The Wheeler Drug Store team took top honors in the 15th annual East Central Community College Warrior Golf Classic with a 22-under par 50 in the 18-hole event, held on the Azaleas Course. Pictured are team members (from left) Hal Thompson, John Rohrer, Joey Hayes and Scott Hinnant.

nity Bank team, whose members included Tim Leitaker, Matt Gregory, Steve Gibson and Tristan Hernandez.

Tyson Foods placed third with a 55. Team members were Eddie McDill, Eddie Hollifield, Michael Worrell and Chad Hall.

FIRST FLIGHT

Bank of Forest team members Drew Kenna and Lee McDill, along with individual participants T.C. Cannon and Zack Hammons, took top honors in the first flight with a 58.

The combined teams of Brown Bottling and Educational Furniture & Equipment finished in second, also with a 58. Team members included Rodney Stephens, Tommy Griffin, Ben Webb and Ken Stringer.

Finishing third with a 59 was Prince Oil Team 1, which included team members Michael Graham, John Graham, Ben Peoples and J.B. Ware.

SECOND FLIGHT

Ross & Betts took top honors in the second flight with a 62. Team members included Shirell

Betts, Michael Betts, David Love and John Bodey.

Mississippi Power finished second with a 63. Team members included Mike Easterwood, Kevin Thrash, Melanie Reed and Donna Monsour.

McLain Plumbing finished third and carded a 64. Team members included Phillip McLain, Trent Cumberland, Ralph Marbel and Alan Marbel.

For more information, contact David LeBlanc, 601-635-6327, or call toll free, 877-462-3222, ext. 327. The email address is dleblanc@eccc.edu.

Dylan Shields joins EC Men's Basketball staff

El Dorado, Ark. native Dylan Shields was recently named assistant men's basketball coach at East Central Community College in Decatur.

Shields' main responsibilities will be recruiting coordinator with a focus on out-of-state players, opponent preparation, and coordinating East Central men's basketball camps.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Shields served as the assistant director of basketball operations and video coordinator at the University of North Texas in Denton for two seasons from 2014-16. He was responsible for organizing summer camps and pre-



SHIELDS

paring game day and scouting reports. He served as a graduate assistant his first year at UNT.

Shields received his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology in 2014 from the

University of Arkansas where he served as a student basketball manager under Coach John Pelphry from 2010-2011 and under Coach Mike Anderson 2011-2014.

A 2010 graduate of Parkers Chapel (Ark.) High School, Shields was a three-year letterman shooting guard for the Trojans.

He is married to the former Taylor Smith of El Dorado, Ark.

ECCC netters compete in MACJC/NJCAA Tourney

Several members of the East Central Community College men's tennis team advanced to the semifinals of the Mis-

issippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State/National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 tournaments played at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston April 20-23.

The ECCC men's No. 1 doubles team of John Jimenez of Oruro, Bolivia, and Will Stewart of Newton County High School qualified for semifinals play after defeating Mateusz Kimelski and Cory Alderman of Copiah-Lincoln 6-1, 7-5 in the quarterfinals. East Central's No. 3 doubles team of Cole Duty of Winston Academy and Alex Chapman of Semmes, Ala., qualified for the semifinals after defeating Luke Armstrong and Josh Hester of Jones County Junior College 6-4, 3-6 (10-7) in the quarterfinals.





EC PHOTO

Women's basketball players sign with 4-year colleges and universities: Three East Central Community College women's basketball players, pictured with head women's basketball coach Crandal Porter, signed National Letters of Intent on May 6 to continue their careers at universities and colleges next fall. Miracle Rushing, left, a sophomore guard/forward from Meridian High School, signed to play for the Alcorn State University Lady Braves in Lorman. Courtney Harper, center, a sophomore center from Laurel High School, signed to play for the Belhaven University Lady Blazers in Jackson. Sophomore point guard Johnta' Hughes, right, a product of Hattiesburg High School, signed to play for the Spring Hill College Lady Badgers in Mobile. All three Lady Warriors contributed to the ECCC's successful season, completing the season with both the MACJC South Division title and MACJC State Championship, finishing 24-3 overall and 15-1 in the conference with a 19-game winning streak.

Tennis teams, players receive ITA academic recognition

The East Central Community College men's and women's tennis teams were both named to the 2016 Intercollegiate Tennis Association's All-Academic Teams released this week.

In addition to the team honors, nine ECCC tennis players were also honored as ITA Scholar-Athletes for their academic performance during the 2015-16 school year.

The ITA All-Academic Team award is open to any ITA program that has a cumulative team grade point average of 3.20 or above.

ITA Scholar-Athletes must be a varsity letter winner, have a GPA of at least 3.5 for the current academic year, and have been enrolled at their school for at least two semesters.

The ECCC men's tennis team finished with a 3.20 GPA, while the women's tennis team led all ECCC varsity sports teams with

a 3.67 GPA.

Members of the ECCC women's team named an ITA Scholar-Athlete were sophomore Kaley Bufkin of Decatur, freshman Emily Dykeman of Forest, freshman Andi McCrimon of Louisville, freshman Samantha McCrimon of Louisville, freshman Chaney Mills of Hickory, and sophomore Brooke Payne of Union.

Members of the ECCC men's team named an ITA Scholar-Athlete included sophomore Cole Duty of Louisville, freshman Brandon Rodgers of Louisville, and sophomore Devin Skinner of Philadelphia.

The teams are coached by Jay Pacelli.

The ITA is the governing body of college tennis, overseeing men's and women's varsity tennis at all levels—NCAA Divisions I, II and III, NAIA and Junior/Community College.



EC PHOTO

Two East Central golfers sign with 4-year universities: Two East Central Community College Warrior golf team members inked National Letters of Intent to continue their golf careers next fall at four-year universities. Tristan Hernandez, left, of Leake Academy, signed with William Carey University in Hattiesburg. Zack Hammons of Raleigh High School, signed with Delta State University in Cleveland. Hammons finished tied for 10th at the state championship after shooting a five-over par 149 and was named MACJC First Team All-State for his season scoring average of 72.86. After finishing fourth in the MACJC State Tournament the Warriors qualified to play in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Golf Tournament played April 25-26 at Back Acres Country Club in Senatobia.

the No. 5 singles quarterfinals.

Jimenez and Stewart fell to Jason Pimenta and Breno Goncalves of Meridian Community College 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals. Duty and Chapman fell to Brett Bowen and Chris Diep of Mississippi Gulf Coast 6-4, 6-3 in their semifinal match. Rogers fell to Will Irwin of Meridian Community College 6-1, 6-4 in his men's singles semifinals.

East Central finished tied for fifth with Hinds Community College and was ranked No. 22 nationally by ITA.

The ECCC Lady Warriors had three individual players win first round matches to advance to the quarterfinals.

Andi McCrimon of Winston Academy beat Kaylan Myers of Northwest Mississippi Community College 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3 singles; Samantha McCrimon of Winston Academy beat Starla Rogers of Northeast Mississippi Community College 6-1, 6-3 at No. 4 singles; and Emily Dykeman of Forest High School beat Oddysey Brewer of Holmes Community College 6-0, 6-4 at No. 5 singles.

Andi McCrimon and Samantha McCrimon also won at No. 2 doubles 6-0, 6-0 over Ashleigh Pope and Britta Graham of Holmes in first round play.

The Lady Warriors finished eighth overall as a team. They were ranked No. 8 in Region III by ITA.

"We wanted more victories at the tournament, but we did have our moments with Brandon Rogers as a semifinalist along with the first and third men's doubles," said ECCC Head Coach Jay Pacelli. "The future is bright for both our men and the women next year. We can't wait to begin working with our returning players and our new recruits."

EC golf team finishes fourth in NJCAA Region 23 Championship

The East Central Community College golf team took fourth place in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Championship held April 25-26 at Back Acres Country Club in Senatobia.

Five teams fought for a spot in the NJCAA National Tournament May 24-27 at Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, Ind.

As a team, the Warriors shot 649 and fell short of advancing to the national championship.

Sophomore Zack Hammons of Raleigh High School finished ninth in the NJCAA Region 23 Championship after shooting an eight-over par 152 over the

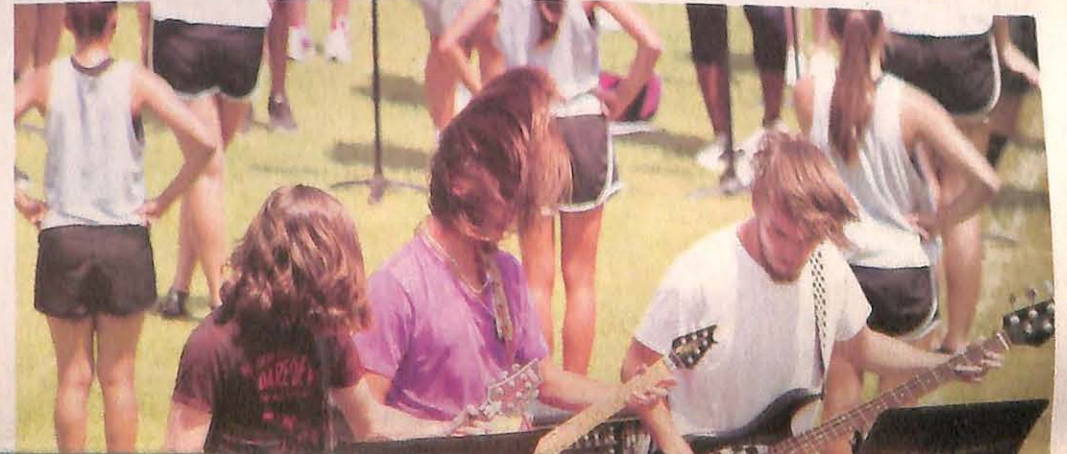
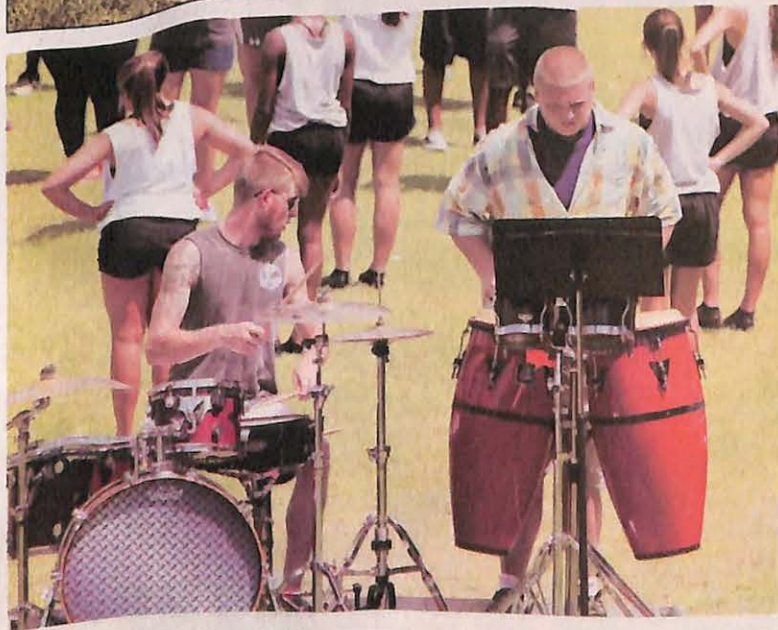
36-hole tournament.

Other East Central golfers in the championship included sophomore Tristan Hernandez of Leake Academy, who finished with a 17-over par 161 and tied for 19th; Kade Mathner of Enterprise (Ala.) High School, who tied at 24th with a score of 168; Nathan Nance out of Newton County High School, who also finished tied for 24th with a score of 168; and Graham Winstead out of Neshoba Central High School, who finished 30th with a score of 186.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College won the championship in a playoff with Meridian Community College.



MEET THE WARRIORS:
Monday, Aug. 29 at 6:30 p.m. • Bailey Stadium





EC PHOTOS

Wall O' Sound previews halftime show: The East Central Wall O' Sound Marching Band, under the direction of Ed Girling and Steve Moffett, recently performed excerpts from their halftime show "A Trip To The Comic Book Store" on the EC practice field.

Football

From Page 5

from Forest High School, who rushed for 102 yards in 2015, and Donterrius Poe of Philadelphia High School both return to the backfield.

Karcher believes the kicking game will have to be consistent across the board for the Warriors to be successful this season.

"Aaron Garrett (Meridian High School) kicked well for us in punting and on kick off, but we have to make sure we are consistent," Karcher said.

The bar is set high for the Warriors in 2016 after the success of last season, and in order for the East Central football program to continue to improve things will have to go well early, according to Karcher.

"Last year we won our first two games at home and we have two home games to start the season

again this year," Karcher said. "If we can start out 2-0 going on the road to Pearl River I think that'll be the jump start we need."

"Slowly but surely we are growing into the football program we want to be," Karcher added. "We aren't the top in this league, but our goal as coaches is whoever we sign, we want them to be as good as the guys we have on the team, or better."

There is one addition to Karcher's coaching staff for the 2016 season. Jonesboro, Ga., native Aaron Garrett Liberty is serving as assistant coach of running backs after joining the staff this month.

Returning coaches include Scott Brock, defensive coordinator and cornerbacks coach; Mickey Mays, defensive line, special teams coordinator and run game coordinator; Charles Jones, safeties and falcons coach; Dennis Alexander, offensive line

coach; Tylan Martin, wide receivers coach; and Derek Welch, linebackers coach.

East Central will play five home games: Thursday, Sept. 1, against Holmes at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 8, against Northeast Mississippi Community College at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 22, against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 6, against Jones County Junior College at 6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 15, against Hinds Community College in the annual Homecoming game. All home games are on the synthetic turf of Bailey Stadium in Decatur.

The Warriors will travel to Pearl River Community College on Sept. 15, Copiah-Lincoln Community College on Sept. 29, Northwest Mississippi Community College on Oct. 20, and Southwest Mississippi Community College on Oct. 29.

over Jones County before another win over Jones in the championship game.

By virtue of the state championship, East Central hosted the 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Baseball Tournament at the Clark/Gay Baseball Complex May 19-22. East Central advanced to the championship game of the Region 23 Tournament before dropping two straight games to Jones County to finish second. Jones County went on to win the 2016 NJCAA Division II Baseball Championship.

East Central finished its season with a No. 10 national ranking.

Wall was named to the

2016 NJCAA Division II Baseball All-American Team. Wall and Prestegard were named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 Team and first team MACJC All-State. Clark and Mitchell were named first team MACJC All-State. Five players were named second team MACJC All-State including Cameron, sophomore right-handed pitcher Peyton Cain of Newton County High School, sophomore second baseman Dylan Snypes of Wayne County High School, freshman center fielder Nathan Roseberry of Purvis High School, and freshman left-handed pitcher Luke Yancey of East Rankin Academy.

ECCC's Wall O' Sound marching band announces new auxiliary unit members

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band recently announced new members of auxiliary units including the Centralettes dance line and the Color Guard, as well as a new feature twirler.

The announcement was made following auditions held on the Decatur campus. Ed Girling serves as director of bands. Steve Moffett is assistant director.

Selected as members of the 2016-17 Centralettes are Hailey Clark, Leake Central; Paige Johnson, Kalie Parks and Hayden Hudspeth, all of Winston Academy; Deanna Brown and Alexis Evans, both of Newton; Karley Andrews, Reagan Gorgas, Makaeya Brock, Kiersten Johnson, Taylor Fulkerson, Abby Reeves and Sylvia Thames, all of Newton County; Chandler Posey and Emily Duncan, both of Philadelphia; Kayla McKinion and Mayson Ables, both of Neshoba Central; Makenzie Byrd, Samantha Sistrunk and Brady Thrash, all of Sebastopol; Belle Yarbrough, Lake; Mackenzie Gray, Men-

denhall; Paden Horton, Morton; Ashley Young, Louisville; Emily Dykeman, Forest; and Taylor Hardy, West Springfield (Va.).

Members of the 2016-17 Color Guard and their respective high schools include Aleaya Corothers, Ana Chapas, Coco Porter, Kelcy Burrage and Tommy Burnside, all of Neshoba Central; Alex Evans, Destiny Snapp, Harliegh Embry and Makayla Weaver, all of Newton County; Amber Gill of Louisville, Amberlynn Ratcliff and Jessica Leach, both of Union; Andie Adcock, Baylee Buckley, Destiny McClendon, Elizabeth Crotwell, Jessica Gates, Katie Boone and Taylor Bone, all of Lake; Breanna Charley, Kaitlyn Bell, Skyla Bell and Christen Jim, all of Choctaw Central; Mayra Sanchez Ruiz, Leake Central; Natorious Ousley, Scott Central; and Syndey Luvane, Northeast Lauderdale.

Hayden Neal of East Rankin Academy will serve as the feature twirler.

CAREER CENTER

The Career Center provides the support that ECCC students need to be successful in choosing a career path, job and internship opportunities, and transferring to a four-year college or university.

SERVICES

- Career assessments to help students with career choices
- Assistance with choosing a major or program of study
- University transfer information, and assisting with applications and scholarship opportunities
- Resume writing and interview tips
- Information on area job openings

HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LOCATION

2nd floor of the Eddie M. Smith Student Union Building in the Student Services Offices

CONTACT

Romonica Evans - Career Center Director/ Recruiter: 601-635-6300

Warriors

From Page 5

Sophomore right-hander Channing Wall of Louisville High School got the win in relief for the Diamond Warriors. Wall pitched three and one-third innings allowing no runs and striking out four. Clark, Cameron, and freshman first baseman Cole Prestegard of Huntsville (Ala.) High School each had three RBI in the championship game.

The Diamond Warriors went undefeated in the double elimination tournament with a 19-11 win over Meridian Community College and a 14-13 win

Warrior Scene

EC Day at the Fair 2016



EC PHOTOS



